COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE CENSUS
CONGRESSMAN ADAM PUTNAM, CHAIRMAN

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release   **Contact: Bob Dix**
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Subcommittee to Review the Use of Factual Data Analysis for Law Enforcement, Homeland Defense and National Security

CAPPS II to be Examined

What: Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census Subcommittee hearing: "Can the Use of Factual Data Analysis Strengthen National Security?" (This will be the first of two hearings to review this issue.)

When: Tuesday, May 6, 2003, 3:00 p.m.

Where: Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

Background:

During this hearing, the Subcommittee will examine the use of factual data analysis techniques, processes, and results in the context of several federal programs being implemented by agencies responsible for law enforcement and homeland security.

Factual Data Analysis in and of itself is not a technology—it is an analytical process that utilizes technology as well as algorithms, data systems, decision trees, deviation detection and image analysis to explore large volumes of data in a systematic and logical manner, in an effort to identify patterns and relationships that were previously unknown. It has been used successfully in the private sector to craft specific marketing and sales programs. It has been used successfully in the public sector to identify and address instances of waste, fraud, and abuse. This hearing will examine whether the use of this process will successfully enhance efforts to strengthen law enforcement and national security. Does factual data analysis contribute to increased risk detection?

In an effort to prevent future terrorist attacks, departments and agencies throughout the federal government have embarked upon strategies that will assist in the identification of potential risks through the use of technology and information sharing. Each of the programs that the Subcommittee will examine in this hearing utilize techniques, processes and/or the results of factual data analysis as elements of their strategy. While each is different in its construct, and each may generate varying responses and levels of interest, the Subcommittee will seek to learn more about the source, accuracy, reliability, and security of the data that is accessed to determine risk assessment, among a variety of issues that this hearing will explore.

The Subcommittee will specifically focus on TIA, Trilogy and CAPPS II programs. Under TIA, DARPA envisions a program that will "revolutionize the ability of the United States to detect, classify and identify foreign terrorists – and decipher their plans – and thereby enable the U.S. to take timely action to successfully preempt and defeat terrorist acts."

Trilogy is the name of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's technology overhaul. One of the chief objectives of the FBI since 9/11 has been to more efficiently use advanced technology to share and analyze the information that's already out there. Trilogy is a multifaceted project that aims to bring much needed technology improvements to the Bureau.

CAPPS II builds upon the first Computer Assisted Prescreening Process System (CAPPS) program. It has been reported that CAPPS II will utilize more advanced information technologies to increase vigilance throughout the nation's airports. The goal of CAPPS II is to "confirm the identities of passengers and to identify foreign terrorists or persons with terrorist connections before they can board U.S. aircraft."

The Transportation Security Administration suggests that CAPPS II not only increases the security of its passengers but also will eliminate the need to stop passengers randomly, thus cutting down significantly on the number of passengers that will undergo additional scrutiny.

Witnesses:
Steve McCraw, Assistant Director, Office of Intelligence, Federal Bureau of Investigation;
Admiral James L. Loy, Director, Transportation Security Administration (TSA); and
Dr. Anthony Tether, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

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